

In the Court of Appeals of the State of Alaska

Christopher D Strawn,
Appellant,

v.

State of Alaska,
Appellee.

Court of Appeals No. **A-13237**

Order

Extend Time to File Brief

Date of Order: **8/26/2019**

Trial Court Case No. **1JU-15-01125CR**

The Appellant, Christopher D. Strawn, represents himself in this appeal. He recently filed a request for a 12-month extension of time to file his opening brief. This is Mr. Strawn's second request for a 12-month extension of time. This Court initially granted his first extension, but upon reconsideration, reduced the extension to six months after the State notified the Court of the victims' objection to the delay.

As this Court noted when reducing the extension, incarcerated litigants who are representing themselves face a number of significant obstacles in preparing their appeals and in filing their briefs. The Court also noted that the present case involves extremely serious criminal offenses, has a voluminous trial court record, and a transcript of more than 2600 pages. In cases like this, it is this Court's experience that self-represented appellants often request, and receive, numerous extensions of time. When considering such requests, this Court takes into account victims' rights to timely resolutions of criminal cases, but the Court must also ensure that self-represented appellants have adequate time to prepare their appeal.

That said, however, despite these difficulties, self-represented litigants are still required to prosecute their appeals in a reasonably timely manner. For this reason, this Court concludes that Mr. Strawn's current pleadings do not justify a lengthy extension over the victims' previously stated objection. Therefore, Mr. Strawn's request

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is **GRANTED in Part**, and his opening brief is now due in six months, on or before February 1, 2020. Any additional extension beyond this new due date will be granted only if Mr. Strawn can demonstrate extraordinary circumstances.

Entered under the authority of Chief Judge Allard.

Clerk of the Appellate Courts

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mindi Johnson", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Mindi Johnson, Deputy Clerk

Distribution:

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